

Staying In Your Home, if safe to do so, is always preferable over an emergency shelter or hotel.

Is Your Home Safe?

An important step in family preparedness is the identification of hazards in your home. Once hazards are identified, it does not take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

Getting started: Using the check list below, involve the whole family, especially your children, in the Home Hazard Hunt. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are the only tools you will need! After identifying what needs to be done, devise a plan to do it.

Any Room

OK / Needs Work

- Floor coverings (rugs) are properly secured to prevent tripping
- Heavy pictures, mirror & artwork are securely fastened
- Draw strings on blinds & drapes are separated to prevent child strangulation
- Room exits are unobstructed
- Ceiling fans & hanging fixtures are secure
- Computer monitors, TVs, tall furniture, book cases & shelves are strapped to prevent tipping
- Heavy, breakable or sentimental objects are on low versus high shelves.
- Breakable objects are secured to shelves with quake mats, Velcro™, low shelf barriers, etc.



Image of Kidco TV anti-tip strap

Kitchen

OK / Needs Work

- Cooking food is never left unattended
- Pan handles are turned in while cooking so children aren't tempted to grab them
- Outlets near the kitchen sink are GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) equipped
- Kitchen cabinets are securely mounted; consider earthquake-type latches to keep doors from flying open & contents falling

Bathroom

OK / Needs Work

- Poisonous cleaning supplies & medicines are in 'child-proofed' cabinets
- Electrical outlets are GFI equipped
- Glass bottles have been replaced with plastic

Garage/Attic/Shed

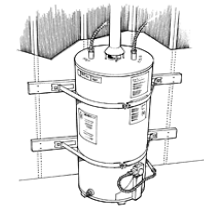
OK / Needs Work

- Gasoline is kept in small quantity, in approved containers
- Paints, thinners & other flammable liquids are in their original containers near the ground & away from heat, sparks or flames
- Oily rags are stored in metal containers
- Combustibles like newspaper & magazines are not stored in the attic

Appliances

OK / Needs Work

- Clothes washer & dryer are properly grounded & vented
- Water heater is strapped to wall studs
- Water heater is elevated at least 18 inches above the floor
- Water heater is set at 120 degrees F
- Refrigerator & other rolling appliances with wheels are locked or wedged to prevent rolling



Earthquakealliance.org

Homes structure

OK / Needs Work

- Home walls are bolted to the foundation
- Roof is bolted to walls
- Foundation is free of cracks
- Chimney is free of cracks & loose bricks; consider bracing the chimney to roof framing
- Gas & water lines have flexible connectors
- Crawlspace walls are reinforced with plywood

Heating Equipment

OK / Needs Work

- Furnace is serviced annually
- Chimney is inspected & cleaned annually
- Fireplace ash is disposed of in metal container to cool
- Fireplace inserts & gas/wood stoves comply with local codes

Electricity/Generator

OK / Needs Work

- Electricity-dependent, life-saving medical equipment is registered with the utility co.
- Extension cords, if used, are correct gauge/wattage for the need.i.e.,12 gauge or smaller gauge for generator use)
- Only one heat producing device is plugged into one electrical outlet
- Extension cords are not placed under rugs
- Damaged cords, plugs & outlets are replaced
- Generator is installed & operated using electrical code 702.6
- Generator is only operated outside & away from all windows, including your neighbor's windows

Fire Extinguisher / Smoke detector

OK / Needs Work

- At least one all-purpose extinguisher (Class A, B, or C) inside the home
- All occupants know how to use it; <http://fireextinguishertraining.com/en/introduction.html>
- Smoke detector is installed correctly at every level, tested monthly, & batteries changed annually
- Carbon monoxide detector is installed correctly at every level, but not directly above or beside fuel-burning appliances, tested monthly, & batteries changed annually

Outside

OK / Needs Work

- Dry vegetation & rubbish from around the house is cleared
- Barbecue grills are used away from building & vegetation
- Barbeque briquettes are disposed in a metal container to cool
- A 'greenbelt' around the house & rural buildings is maintained

Consolidated Emergency Management, Washington Co., Oregon

Why Prepare: We live on a peninsula with two main routes to and from. Access to goods and services may be unavailable following a disaster. Plan to be self-sufficient for an extended period of time, 7-10 days.

Home Preparedness: Preparing our families in advance of an emergency or natural disaster is a sensible thing to do. Involve all family members in your preparedness planning. Practicing these suggestions will assist you in reacting appropriately should a disaster occur. To make your home safe and comfortable, gather extra food, water and medicine; and have a plan for alternate heat and energy sources.

Pantry Preparedness: Remember to use up what's in your fridge first, then the freezer and finally the pantry. Pantry foods should combine nutrition (any special diet needs), variety and ease of preparation in a power outage:

- Drinking water, at least one gallon per person per day for 7-10 days or more
- Oats, rice, other grains, and pasta
- Ready to eat canned goods – chili, spaghetti, etc.
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, other)
- Beans (pinto, navy, refried, other)
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Peanut (or other nut) butters
- Honey and sugar
- Powdered milk, instant mashed potatoes
- Crackers, dry cereal, dry soup mixes
- Granola bars, popcorn, and trail mix
- Military 'meals ready to eat' (MREs)
- Ready-made food kits for all family members

Staying Warm – Always have an Alternate Heat Source:

Being comfortable in your home during a disaster can come down to a secondary or tertiary way to stay warm. If your primary heat source is propane, your back plan may be wood, electric heater or wool blankets.

Conserving Alternate Energy Sources: Life-line to the outside world may require good alternate energy sources (batteries, a generator, power inverter, or other). Have these items on hand and conserve their use. Here's how:

- Remove batteries when not in use
- Store batteries in a cool dry place
- Know what you must operate in an emergency to preserve life or food safety
- Consider running your generator only as necessary (cycling on and off) to conserve fuel
- Pre-charge critical batteries for phones, back-up battery storage cells and invertors, check their charge on a regular schedule
- In an emergency, turn off your cell phone when not in use. Limit texting or calling to emergency needs only. Set a pre-arranged time once a day to text or call family or out-of-area contact.

YOUR HOME IS YOUR BEST SHELTER



“There’s no place like home,
There’s no place like home!”

Dorothy, Wizard of Oz

Have an Emergency Plan Before a Disaster Hits

